

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for providing web services, comprising:
 - 2 a plurality of web servers capable of hosting web browsing sessions, each
 - 3 session having session data associated therewith;
 - 4 a local director connected to a communications link and to the web
 - 5 servers, wherein the local director routes requests, each associated with a
 - 6 session, from remote browsers to a web server hosting the associated session;
 - 7 a remote session server connected to the web servers, wherein the
 - 8 remote session server contains a copy of all session data for all sessions on all
 - 9 web servers.
- 1 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein each web server has a local cache of
- 2 session data for all sessions hosted on that web server.
- 1 3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the remote session server comprises at
- 2 least two separate remote servers, and wherein each separate server contains a
- 3 copy of the session data for a subset of the web browsing sessions.
- 1 4. The system of Claim 3, wherein each separate remote server contains
- 2 session data for a subset of web browsing sessions that does not overlap the
- 3 subset of any other separate remote server.

1 6. A method for providing web session services, comprising the steps of:
2 connecting a plurality of web sessions to a plurality of web servers, each
3 web server hosting a plurality of web sessions;
4 on each web server, caching all session data for each session hosted on
5 that web server;
6 copying all cached session data on every web server to a remote session
7 server.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
2 when a web server goes down, transferring the sessions that such web
3 server was hosting to others of the web servers; and
4 for each transferred session, copying session data for that session from
5 the remote session server to a web server to which the session was transferred.

1 8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the remote session server comprises at
2 least two separate remote servers, and wherein the copying step comprises the
3 step of:

4 copying the session data for every web session to one of the separate
5 remote servers, wherein each separate remote server maintains a copy of a
6 selected subset of the web sessions.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

2 when a separate remote server goes down, for each web session for
3 which a copy of its session data was maintained on such separate remote server,
4 copying the session data for those sessions from the web servers hosting those
5 sessions to another of the separate remote servers.

1 10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the selected subsets for the separate
2 remote servers overlap, wherein each web session is copied to two different
3 separate remote servers.